

Daniel Chapter Six

- After the conquest of Babylon by the Medo-Persian armies, Darius the Mede became the king [5:31].
 - Darius was born around 600 B.C. and was the son of Ahaseurus, of Median descent [Dan 9:1].
 - Darius “received” the kingdom and was “made” king [Dan 9:1] – both of these terms refer to his appointment to office by Cyrus the Great to reign over Babylon, Syria, Phoenicia, and Palestine.
 - This is not Darius the Great who is mentioned in Haggai, Zechariah and Ezra (reigned 522-486 B.C.).
 - Neither is this Darius the Persian mentioned in Nehemiah (a.k.a. Darius II, reigned 423-404 B.C.).
- Darius reorganized the governing structure [6:1-2].
 - 120 Satraps – Governors of the Persian provinces.
 - 3 Commissioners – Chiefs or Overseers.
- Once again Daniel rose above the others [6:3].
 - Daniel was roughly 80 years old by this time.
 - There was in him an “extraordinary Spirit”.
 - Because of Daniel’s excellence, Darius intended to place all 120 of the satraps under Daniel’s oversight.
- The other two commissioners and the satraps turned against Daniel [6:4-5].
 - They first attempted to find fault with Daniel, but could find no negligence or corruption in him [6:4].
 - They determined that their only line of attack would be to use Daniel’s devotion to God against him [6:5].
- They tricked Darius into signing a law which would implicate Daniel [6:6-9].
 - They came like a mob (thronged) to the king [6:6].
 - They lied saying Daniel agreed with them [6:7].
 - They wanted to make it illegal to petition any god or anyone other than Darius for thirty days [6:7].
 - The penalty for breaking this law was to be cast into the lion’s den [6:7].
 - They convinced Darius to sign the law which could not be revoked under Persian rule of law [6:8-9].
- Daniel knew about the law, but determined that he would obey God rather than man [6:10 cf. Acts 5:29].

- He went to the privacy of his own home.
- He prayed and gave thanks as he had always done.
- The commissioners and satraps rushed (thronged) into Daniel's home and found him praying [6:11].
- They went straight to Darius to use the new law to bring charges against Daniel [6:12-13].
- Darius now realized that he had been tricked by these men and became deeply distressed [6:14-15].
 - Darius tried desperately to find a way to exonerate Daniel of this charge [6:14].
 - The accusers reminded him of what he already knew - under Persian rule of law his hands were tied [6:15].
- Darius reluctantly carried out the sentence against Daniel as prescribed by the law [6:16-17].
 - Darius expressed his hopes that Daniel would be saved from death by his God [6:16].
 - The sealing of the stone seems to indicate a lack of trust between Darius and his nobles [6:17].
- Darius was very concerned about Daniel [6:18-20].
 - He skipped his usual evening entertainment and, after a restless night fasting, he arose early [6:18-19].
 - He called for Daniel, hoping that he was alive [6:20].
- After finding Daniel alive and well, Darius wasted no time in setting him free [6:21-23].
 - Daniel gave honor to the king while witnessing to him about God [6:21-22].
 - The "angel" he mentioned was most likely the pre-incarnate Christ who had delivered his friends [6:22].
 - Darius was ecstatic as he released Daniel [6:23].
- Darius turns the tables on the accusers [6:24].
 - The accusers and their families were cast in the den.
 - The lions that had spared Daniel attacked this time.
- Darius responded to Daniel's rescue and his personal witness concerning God [6:25-28].
 - Darius decreed that everyone in the kingdom should fear and respect God [6:25-26a].
 - He declared that God is "the living God" and spoke of His eternal qualities [6:26b].
 - He understood that God performs miracles on heaven and earth and is the Savior [6:27].
 - Daniel found favor in Darius' eyes [6:28].
- It appears that King Darius was saved at this point.